Declining Growth Rates

1636. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Council of applied Economic Research study shows a decline or negative growth in both the manufacturing and agricultural sectors to the extent of 1.4 per cent and 2.3 per cent respectively; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) The review of Indian economy for the period of April-September 1992 by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has referred to the quick estimates of the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), which have indicated negative annual growth rates of agricultural and manufacturing sectors as—1.4 per cent and—2.3 per cent respectively in 1991-92 .

(b) After registering a decline in the crisis year of 1991-92, agricultural and manufacturing output have begun to recover. According to CSO, the growth rates of agricultural and manufacturing output in 1992-93 are expected to be 4.2 and 3.5 per cent respectively.

Negotiations with IMF and World Bank

1637. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any negotiations are underway with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank for extended fund facility; and

(b) if so what is the status of these negotiations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) Preliminary discussions for accessing resources under the Extended Fund Facility have been held with the IMF. The next round of discussions are likely to take place towards the end of March 1993.

1638 [*Transferred to 11th March* 1993].

World Bank Report about India's Foreign Exchange Reserves

1639. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a World Bank Report, India's foreign exchange reserves are not sufficient to cope with any serious exogenous shock such as drought related agricultural production shortfalls or adverse developments in the external environment;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Bank has said in its report on 'Stabilizing and Reforming the Economy' dated 18th May, 1992 that India's foreign exchange reserves are still insufficient to cope with such exogenous shock as drought-related agricultural production shortfalls, or adverse developments in the external environment.

(c) The level of foreign exchange reserves is a net result of a number of transactions including imports, exports, remittances, IMF inflows, NRI deposits and External Assistance. As a result of various policy initiatives foreign exchange reserves have improved from a level of US

$ 1.1 billion in June, 1991 to about US $ 5 billion by March 1992 and are being maintained at that level. With the introduction of unified exchange rate, it is expected that Balance of Payments position would improve further.

Levy of Wealth Tax in Jammu and Kashmir

1640 SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has recently ruled that Wealth Tax is leviable in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what is the number of cases where Wealth Tax has now become recoverable; and

(c) what is the amount involved and other material particulars of the cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The number of cases where wealth tax has now become recoverable in the state of Jammu & Kashmir and the amount involved is as under :

Provisional figures as on 31st January, 1993

(i) No. of cases	1172
(ii) Arrear demand outstanding	Rs. 2.60 crores

The above demand could not be recovered due to the judgement of the Hon'ble Jammu & Kashmir High Court declaring the wealth-tax Act ultra-vires in the state of Jammu & Kashmir. The decision has now been reversed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and steps as per law are being taken to recover this demand.

दसवें वित्त आयोग द्वारा जारी किये गये दिशानिर्देश

1641. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दसवें वित्त आयोग द्वारा राज्यों को क्या क्या निदेश जारी किये गये हैं; और

(ख) उन पर राज्यों की प्रतिक्रियाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० वी० चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) और (ख) संविधान के अनुच्छेद 280 (1) के अन्तर्गत गठित वित्त आयोग एक स्वतन्त्र निकाय है न कि केन्द्रीय सरकार का अंग है । इसके अलावा, संविधान के अनुच्छेद 280 (4) के अन्तर्गत आयोग अपने कार्य की पद्धति स्वयं निर्धारित करता है । इसलिए, यह भारत सरकार की कार्यकारी शक्तियों के दायरे में नहीं आता है ।

विदेशी ऋण

1642. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) भारत पर इस समय किन-किन देशों और किन किन वित्तीय संस्थाओं का ऋण बकाया है और ऐसे ऋणों की धन राशि का ब्यौरा क्या है और

(ख) उपर्युक्त ऋणों पर प्रत्येक वर्ष ब्याज के रूप में कितनी राशि का भुगतान किया जाता है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० अबरार अहमद) : (क) सूचना संलग्न विवरण में दी गई है । (नीचे देखिए) ।

(ख) वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान बकाया ऋण पर दी जाने वाली ब्याज की राशि 7356 करोड़ रुपये होने का अनुमान है ।